

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0018] Another difference of system 10 as illustrated in Figure 1b versus Figure 1a is that Figure 1b is intended to illustrate the second overall routing configuration, that is, the configuration that applies to multicast communications (as opposed to unicast communications that are routed according to the illustration of Figure 1a). Specifically, in the preferred embodiment, central manager CM develops the second overall routing configuration based on various considerations as detailed below. As also detailed later, the second routing configuration preferably is maintained by communication of a different routing table from central manager CM to each of the PE nodes of the applicable network, where thereafter each such PE node routes multicast packets according to its respective table. Before detailing these aspects, note that Figure 1b illustrates an instance where the second overall routing configuration includes all of the LSPs of the first overall routing configuration shown in Figure 1a, with two exceptions. Specifically, in Figure 1b,  $LSP_{1A2}$  and  $LSP_{2A4}-LSP_{1A3}$  are not included in the second overall routing configuration due to issues relating to attributes of those LSPs as used in the first overall routing configuration of Figure 1a. For example, the excluded  $LSP_{1A2}$  and  $LSP_{2A4}-LSP_{1A3}$  may already be heavily loaded with unicast traffic. To further demonstrate this aspect, Figure 1b illustrates a circled “X” to depict that each of these LSPs are missing, and those X’s are labeled  $M_{1A2}$  to indicate the missing  $LSP_{1A2}$  and  $M_{2A4}-M_{1A3}$  to indicate the missing  $LSP_{2A4}-LSP_{1A3}$ , respectively. Thus, in Figure 1b, where a missing LSP exists, the PE nodes are prohibited from communicating multicast packets directly to one another, although those packets may be re-routed along any of the other LSPs illustrated in Figure 1b, as will be further demonstrated later.